

## **8100 PROCEDURE 326**

### **Resource Ordering - Call When Needed (CWN) – Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT).**

(No.73 February 2016)

Prior to activating a Call When Needed (CWN) Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) CAL FIRE Executive approval through the Duty Chief Chain of Command is required. CAL FIRE Executive needs only to approve the initial CWN VLAT activation period as defined in the VLAT Operating Plan. Normal activation reflex time for a CWN VLAT is 24 hours. Once the services of the CWN VLAT are no longer needed and the minimum requirements are met the CWN VLAT shall be released.

Note: Prior to ordering a CWN VLAT confirm whether an Exclusive Use VLAT is available. Ordering a VLAT on an Exclusive Use contract does not require approval from CAL FIRE Executive. If ordering via the Exclusive Use contract refer to [HB 8100p320, Resource Ordering - Aircraft](#)

Region and Sacramento staff shall be familiar with the current VLAT Operating Plan prior to requesting a VLAT.

Informal discussions may take place between Aviation Management Unit (AMU), Tactical Air Operations (TAO) and others prior to activation, however, no resources will be mobilized until a formal order is processed as outlined in the procedure below.

### **Responsibilities and Action**

#### **Approval Procedure:**

##### **Unit CC**

1. Receives request for use of a CWN VLAT from Incident Commander.
2. Notify the Unit Duty Chief.
3. Notify Region Duty Officer.

##### **Region OCC**

1. Receive notification of the request for the use of CWN VLAT.
2. Notify Region Duty Chief of request.
3. Ensure that Exclusive Use VLAT is not available.
4. Contact AMU Duty Officer to determine availability of CWN VLAT.
5. Advise TAO Duty Officer of possible activation.

### **Region Duty Chief**

1. Notify the Sac Duty Chief of the request for approval to activate the CWN VLAT.
2. Determine if the activation of the CWN VLAT is warranted due to current incident activity and/or actual or predicted conditions.

### **Sac Duty Chief**

1. Seek CAL FIRE Executive approval to activate a CWN VLAT.
2. Advise both the CNR and CSR Duty Chief of the CAL FIRE Executive decision.
3. If approved, advise the Sac Duty Officer.

### **Region Duty Chief**

1. Advise Region Duty Officer of approval.

### **Region Duty Officer**

1. Notify responsible Unit of VLAT base activation. Include the number of VLAT's activated (for support planning).

### **Tactical Air Ops Duty Officer**

1. Confirm availability of a VLAT qualified Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) and advise Sac CC and Region OCC.
  - a. A conference call may be warranted to coordinate the use of the ASM.

### **Sac CC**

1. Receive approval to activate from the Sac Duty Chief.
2. Create a CA-CDF incident named "CWN VLAT, Month" (i.e. CWN VLAT, August).
  - a. This number is for cost tracking unless resources are assigned to an incident.
3. Ensure resource is set to "Available" in the Contracts/Agreements Tab in the Resource Ordering System of Record and both Regions have control rights for the resource.

### **Dispatch Procedure:**

#### **Any CC**

1. Generate requests in the Resource Ordering System of Record for
  - a. Airtanker, VLAT.
  - b. Fixed Wing, Lead Plane or ASM; Special Needs - VLAT Qualified.
2. Place requests to the Region OCC using normal aircraft ordering procedures.

## **Region OCC**

1. Receive a request for a CWN VLAT and Lead Plane or ASM.
2. Place the request to the Region OCC in which the CWN VLAT shall be based.
3. Fill request with available CWN VLAT from Contracts/Agreements tab (ROSS specific) using normal aircraft ordering procedures.

## **Deactivation of CWN VLAT**

### **Region OCC**

1. Determine there is no longer a need for the CWN VLAT.
2. Notify Region Duty Chief.

### **Region Duty Chief**

1. Notify Sac Duty Chief that there is no longer a need for the CWN VLAT in their Region.

### **Sac Duty Chief**

1. Verify with the other Region Duty Chief that they do not have a need for the CWN VLAT.
2. Determine that the CWN VLAT minimum day(s) requirement has been met.
3. If a need no longer exists, advise CAL FIRE Executive of the deactivation.
4. Notify Region Duty Chief and Sac Duty Officer.

### **Sac CC**

1. Receive or confirm notification from the Sac Duty Chief that the CWN VLAT may be deactivated.
2. Remove the CWN VLAT in the Contracts/Agreements Tab in the Resource Ordering System of Record.

[\(Next Procedure\)](#)

[\(Handbook Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(Forms and Form Samples\)](#)